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SUBJECT: EMBASSY KIGALI 9/11 COMMEMORATION

REF: STATE 145167

Embassy marked the 9/11 five year anniversary with a short ceremony at the American Club in Kigali attended by mission Americans, locally engaged staff and two guests of honor. Ambassador Arrietti covered the key reftel themes in his remarks, emphasizing the US commitment to social justice, compassion and respect for Islam. Guests of honor were the Mufti of Rwanda, Sheik Saleh Habimana, and Special Presidential Envoy- and Ambassador to the US on 9/11- Ambassador Richard Sezibera. Both reiterated the need to reject the ideology of hate preached by Islamic radicals and work together in the international community to foster a climate of hope and opportunity. The ceremony, covered by Rwandan print, radio and television media, closed with a moment of silence.
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